DC BATMAN
BATMAN
WITH ROBIN THE TEEN WONDER
15¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NO. 232
JUNE
30050
WHEN I DECIDE ROBIN MUST DIE--
--HE DIES!
A TALE TO HAUNT YOU FOREVER--
'DAUGHTER of the DEMON!'

HOW MANY MODELS HAVE YOU STARTED BUT NEVER FINISHED?

Most kids toss half their models into the garbage.

For some good reasons.

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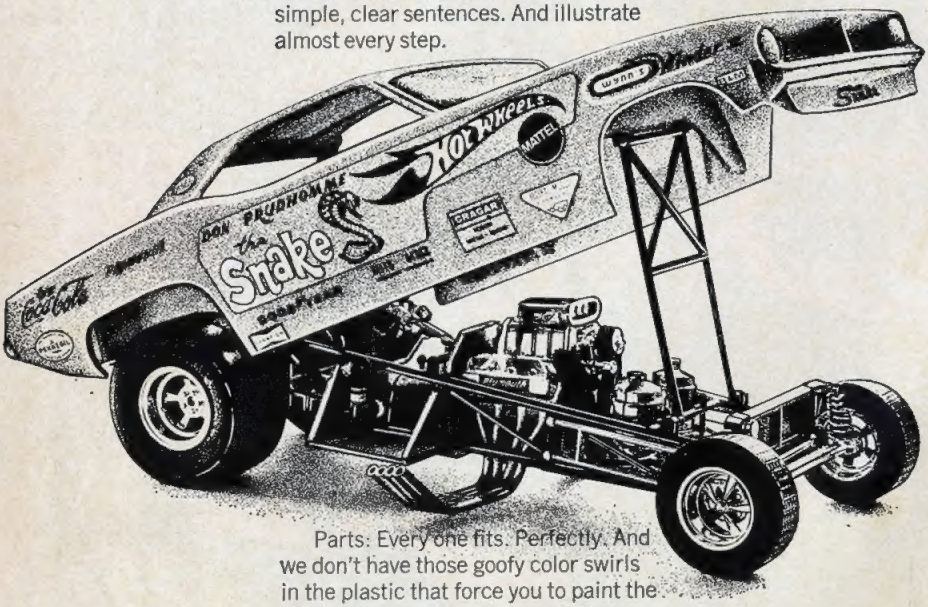

Parts: Every one fits. Perfectly. And we don't have those goofy color swirls in the plastic that force you to paint the thing before it looks like something.

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MATTEL

THE MODELS YOU FINISH.

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NIGHT... A COLORFULLY CLAD FIGURE SLIDES SILENTLY THROUGH THE SHADOWS TOWARD A BOARDING HOUSE NEAR HUDSON UNIVERSITY. HE SHINNIES SWIFTLY UP A DRAINPIPE... THEN PAUSES AT AN OPEN WINDOW...
WHO IS THAT...? WHO'S THERE?
AARGH...!
S-725
1

BATMAN, No. 232, June, 1971. Published monthly, with the exception of April and October by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., Sparta, Ill. 62286. EDITORIAL, EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 909 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Julius Schwartz, Editor. Carmine Infantino, Editorial Director. Sol Harrison, Production Manager. Second Class Postage Paid at Sparta, Ill. No subscriptions. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1971. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

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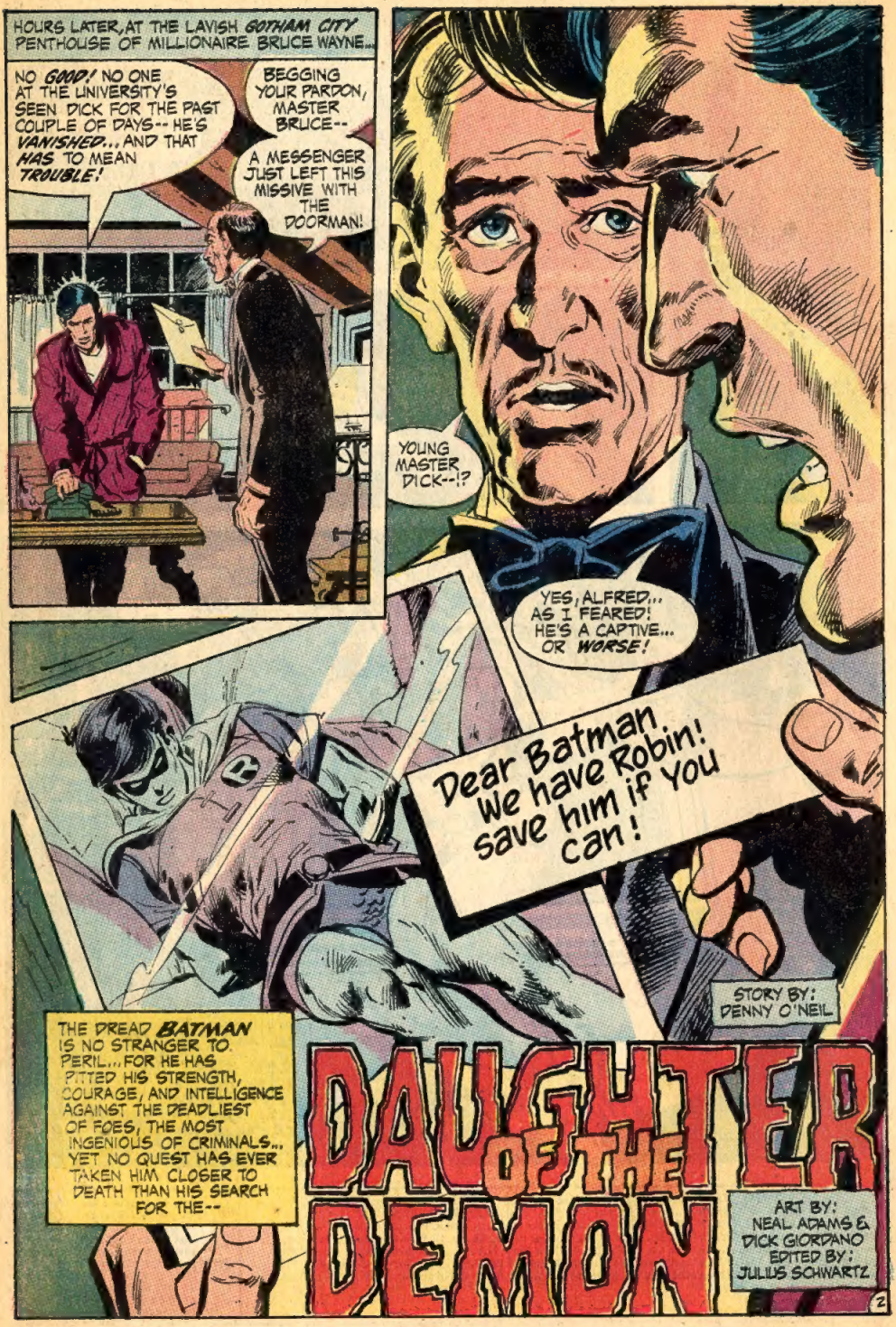
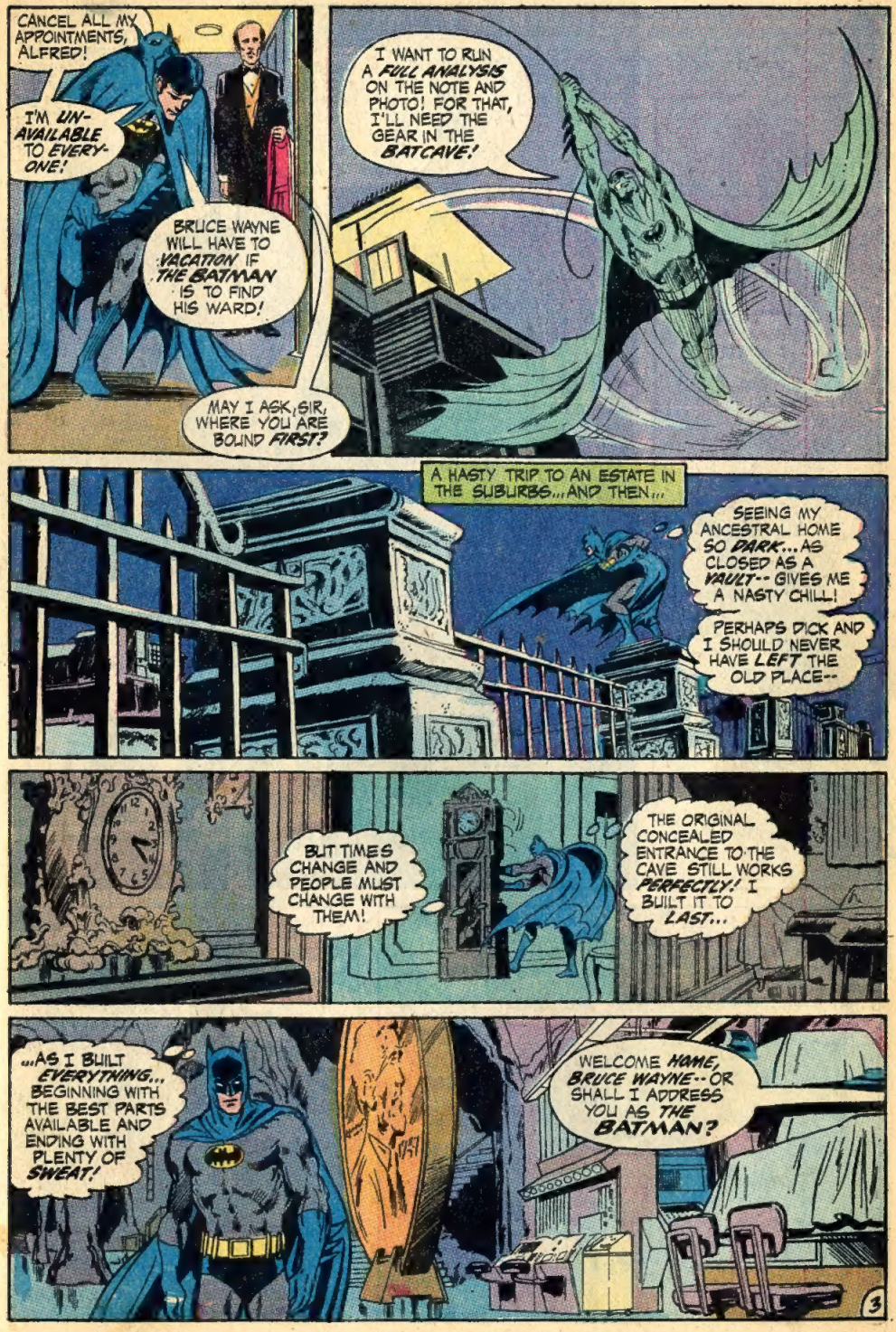
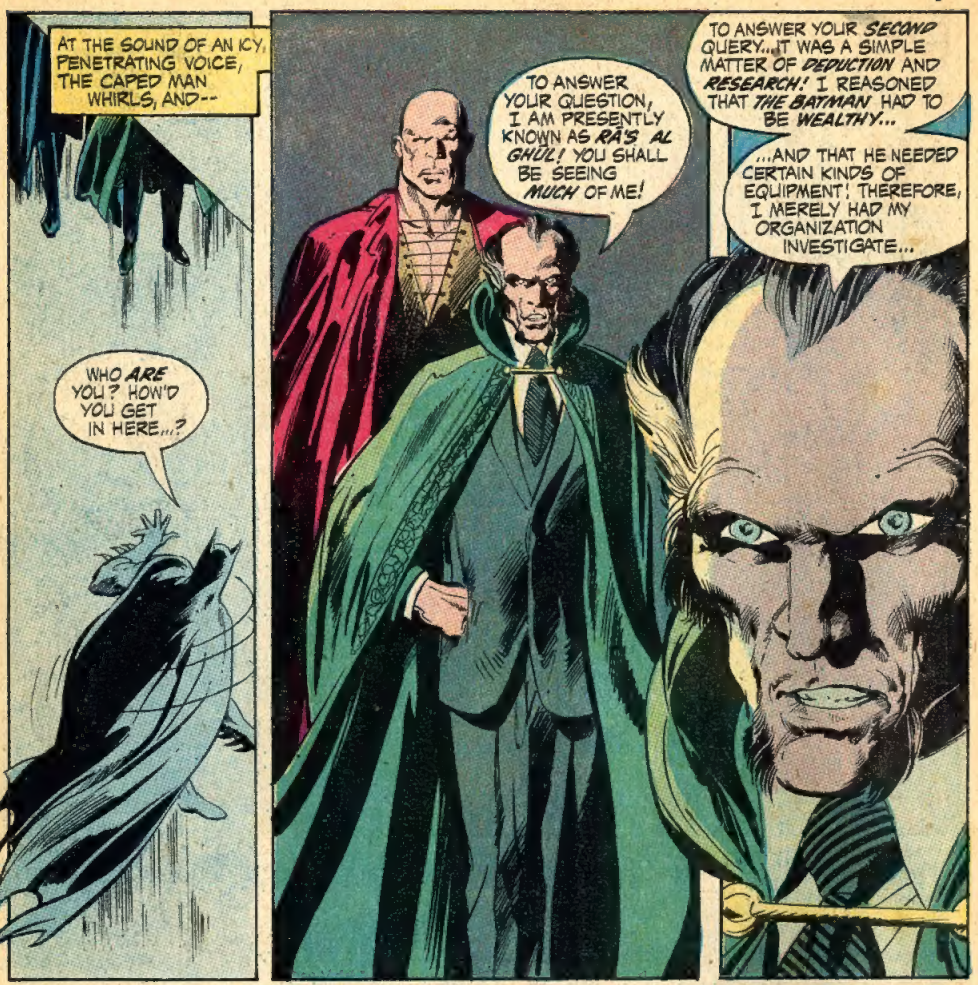
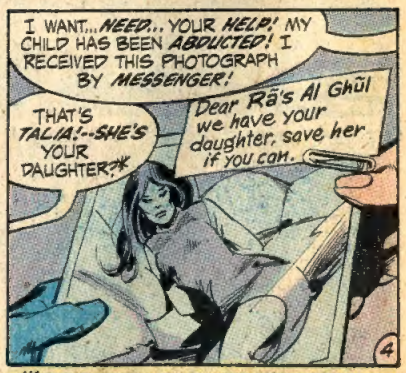

HOURS LATER, AT THE LAVISH GOTHAM CITY PENTHOUSE OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE...
NO GOOD! NO ONE AT THE UNIVERSITY'S SEEN DICK FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS-- HE'S VANISHED... AND THAT HAS TO MEAN TROUBLE!
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, MASTER BRUCE--
A MESSENGER JUST LEFT THIS MISSIVE WITH THE DOORMAN!
YOUNG MASTER DICK--!?
YES, ALFRED... AS I FEARED! HE'S A CAPTIVE... OR WORSE!
Dear Batman, We have Robin! save him if you can!
STORY BY: DENNY O'NEIL
THE DREAD BATMAN IS NO STRANGER TO PERIL... FOR HE HAS PITTED HIS STRENGTH, COURAGE, AND INTELLIGENCE AGAINST THE DEADLIEST OF FOES, THE MOST INGENIOUS OF CRIMINALS... YET NO QUEST HAS EVER TAKEN HIM CLOSER TO DEATH THAN HIS SEARCH FOR THE--
DAUGHTER OF THE DEMON
ART BY: NEAL ADAMS & DICK GIORDANO
EDITED BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
2


CANCEL ALL MY APPOINTMENTS, ALFRED!
I'M UN-AVAILABLE TO EVERY-ONE!
BRUCE WAYNE WILL HAVE TO VACATION IF THE BATMAN IS TO FIND HIS WARD!
MAY I ASK, SIR, WHERE YOU ARE BOUND FIRST?
I WANT TO RUN A FULL ANALYSIS ON THE NOTE AND PHOTO! FOR THAT, I'LL NEED THE GEAR IN THE BATCAVE!
A HASTY TRIP TO AN ESTATE IN THE SUBURBS... AND THEN...
SEEING MY ANCESTRAL HOME SO DARK... AS CLOSED AS A VAULT -- GIVES ME A NASTY CHILL!
PERHAPS DICK AND I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT THE OLD PLACE--
BUT TIMES CHANGE AND PEOPLE MUST CHANGE WITH THEM!
THE ORIGINAL CONCEALED ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE STILL WORKS PERFECTLY! I BUILT IT TO LAST...
...AS I BUILT EVERYTHING... BEGINNING WITH THE BEST PARTS AVAILABLE AND ENDING WITH PLENTY OF SWEAT!
WELCOME HOME, BRUCE WAYNE -- OR SHALL I ADDRESS YOU AS THE BATMAN?
3


AT THE SOUND OF AN ICY, PENETRATING VOICE, THE CAPED MAN WHIRLS, AND--
WHO ARE YOU? HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE...?
TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, I AM PRESENTLY KNOWN AS RA'S AL GHUL! YOU SHALL BE SEEING MUCH OF ME!
TO ANSWER YOUR SECOND QUERY...IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER OF DEDUCTION AND RESEARCH! I REASONED THAT THE BATMAN HAD TO BE WEALTHY...
...AND THAT HE NEEDED CERTAIN KINDS OF EQUIPMENT! THEREFORE, I MERELY HAD MY ORGANIZATION INVESTIGATE...

...AND YOU FOUND THAT BRUCE WAYNE ALONE BOUGHT WHAT THE BATMAN HAD TO HAVE, RIGHT? OKAY... THAT'S A HOLE I'LL PLUG!
I'M SURPRISED SOMEONE DIDN'T THINK OF IT YEARS AGO! NOW, I HAVE A THIRD QUESTION... THE BIG ONE...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?


I WANT...NEED... YOUR HELP! MY CHILD HAS BEEN ABDUCTED! I RECEIVED THIS PHOTOGRAPH BY MESSENGER!
THAT'S TALIA!--SHE'S YOUR DAUGHTER?*
Dear Rā's Al Ghūl we have your daughter. save her if you can.
4

*THE BATMAN SAVED TALIA'S LIFE IN "INTO THE DEN OF THE DEATH-DEALERS" (DETECTIVE COMICS #411; MAY 1971) AND SHE RETURNED THE COMPLIMENT BY SLAYING THE MURDEROUS DR. DARRK!... EDITOR

APPARENTLY THE GIRL WAS TAKEN BY THE SAME PERSON WHO HAS MY WARD! WE HAVE A MUTUAL PROBLEM--
TALIA SPOKE HIGHLY OF YOUR ABILITIES AS A DETECTIVE! I TRUST HER JUDGMENT WITHOUT RESERVATION--
IF ANYONE CAN SEEK HER OUT... IT IS THE BATMAN!
LET'S HOPE YOU'RE BOTH CORRECT! FOR OPENERS, I'LL EXAMINE THE PICTURES UNDER A MICROSCOPIC SPECTOGRAPH!
THERE MAY BE TRACES OF DUST THAT CAN GIVE US A CLUE!
FOR THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE BENDS TO HIS TASK! THEN--
YOU SMILE, BATMAN! YOU HAVE MADE A DISCOVERY?
I THINK SO...
YES... UNMISTAKABLE BITS OF A CERTAIN HERB... ONE USED IN CEREMONIES OF A FAR EASTERN CULT OF KILLERS!
THEY'RE CALLED THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE DEMON! AND I RECALL THAT THEY'RE CURRENTLY LOCATED IN CALCUTTA!
WE SHALL PROCEED TO INDIA IMMEDIATELY!
I HAVE AN AIRCRAFT WAITING NEARBY--
INFIDEL! MY LORD AL GHUL LEAVES THE CHAMBER FIRST!
UNN... OKAY, FRIEND! YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT!
PRAY FORGIVE MY GUARD UBU! HE IS TRAINED TO MY COMPLETE SERVICE... AND A TRIFLE OVERZEALOUS!
HE'S THAT, ALL RIGHT... AND STRONG, TOO!
5

SOON, THE ODDLY MIXED TRIO IS WINGING OVER AN OCEAN...
AND INSIDE THE LUXURIOUS JET...
YOUR WARD AND MY DAUGHTER ARE IN MORTAL DANGER! INDEED, BATMAN, THEY MAY ALREADY BE DEAD! YET YOU SHOW NO SIGNS OF AGITATION--
NOR DO YOU EXHIBIT ANY CURIOSITY CONCERNING MY HUMBLE SELF! HAVE YOU NO FEELINGS?
PLENTY OF THEM! BUT IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD FOR ME TO ALLOW MY EMOTIONS TO GAIN CONTROL...
...NOT WHILE THERE'S A JOB AHEAD! FOR YEARS, I'VE TRAINED MYSELF TO CONCENTRATE ON THE THING AT HAND--
LATER, I'LL CRY... IF I MUST!
CRY--? YES, THERE HAVE BEEN TEARS IN MY LIFE--
BEGINNING WITH THAT SUMMER EVENING SO LONG AGO! MY PARENTS AND THE CHILD THAT WAS MYSELF WERE STROLLING HOME FROM A MOVIE, HAPPY, CONTENT--WHEN SUDDENLY--"
I'LL TAKE THAT NECKLACE YOU'RE WEARING, LADY!
LEAVE HER ALONE... AAGH!
HELP! POLICE... HELP!
SHUT UP, LADY! I SAID... SHUT UP!
PLEASE, DON'T--!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

THE WEIRD WORLD OF AURORA

PUT TOGETHER YOUR OWN SCARY SCENES WITH AURORA'S FANTASTIC MONSTER SCENES CUSTOM BUILDER KITS.

WE NEED A GIRL VICTIM FOR THE EXPERIMENT
NO PROBLEM DR.
LAB TABLE
NO ..... PROBLEM... HEH, HEH.
KEEP HER QUIET.
HELP! HELP!
DON'T WORRY THIS IS NEW YORK. NO ONE WILL HELP HER
GIRL VICTIM
BACK IN DR. DEADLY'S DUNGEON. EXPERIMENT STARTS.
TABLE
IF THIS EXPERIMENT WORKS SHE'LL TURN INTO A...FLY. HEH, HEH.
THAT SOUNDS SO HORRIBLE IT EVEN SCARES A VAMPIRELLA LIKE ME
HANGING CAGE
PENDULUM
WILL THE EXPERIMENT SUCCEED? IT'S UP TO YOU WHEN YOU BUILD YOUR MONSTER SCENES CUSTOM BUILDER KITS FROM AURORA

SNAP THEM TOGETHER. NO GLUE NEEDED. CREATE YOUR OWN SCARY SCENES. GET VAMPIRELLA, FRANKENSTEIN, DR. DEADLY, GIRL VICTIM, PLUS ALL LAB EQUIPMENT. 8 KITS IN ALL. GET MONSTER SCENES CUSTOM BUILDER KITS FROM

AURORA

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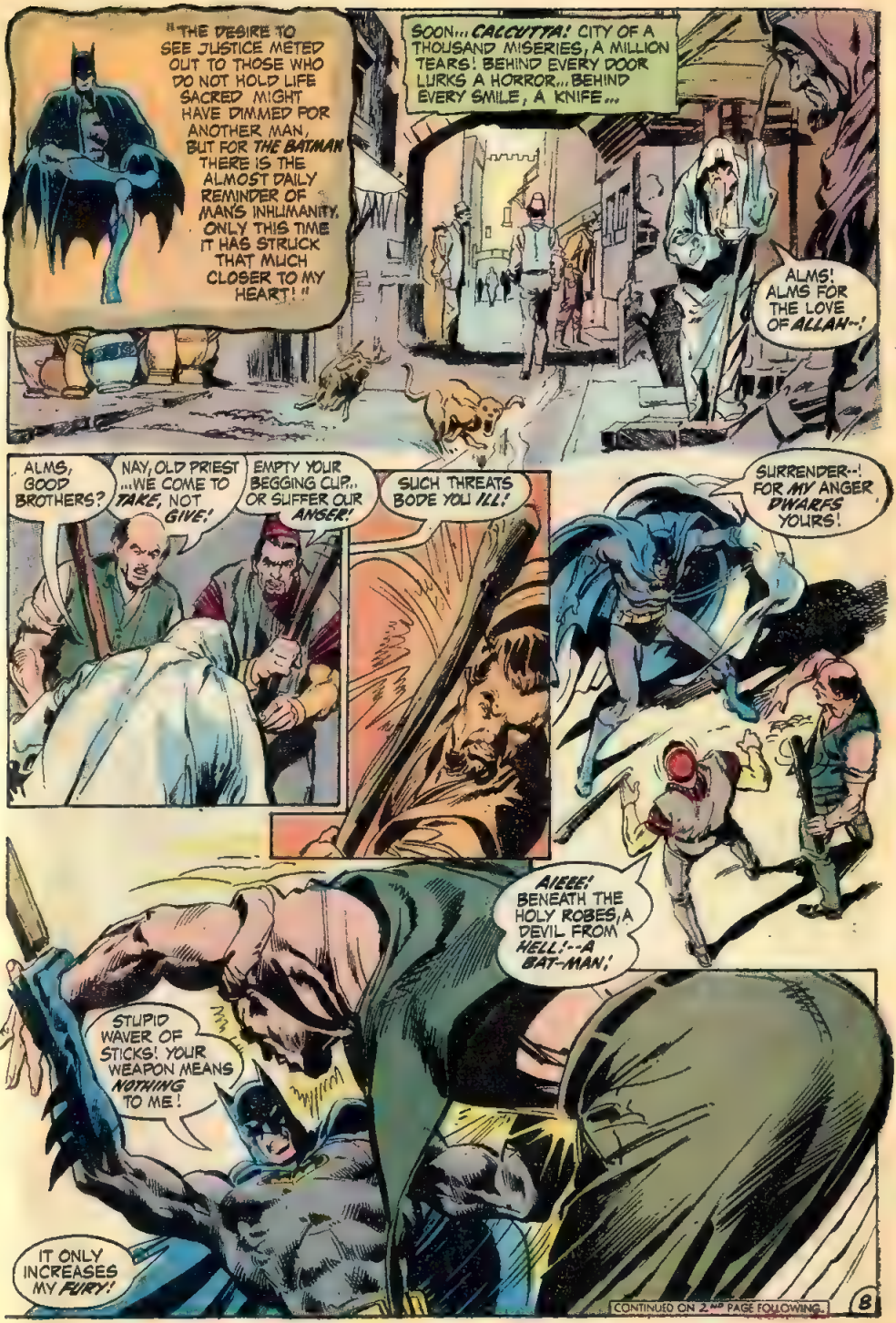
"IN A SINGLE, SEARING MOMENT, MY CHILDHOOD WAS GONE, BLASTED BY A CHEAP THUG'S BULLETS, AND I WAS LEFT ALONE IN A WORLD GROWN COLD..."
"I KNEW I WOULD NEVER AGAIN KNOW PEACE! STANDING OVER THE BODIES OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER, I MADE A SILENT VOW..."
"I WOULD AVENGE THEIR MURDERS--I WOULD DEDICATE MY LIFE TO A RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME..."
"AND SO I DID! HAD I REALIZED THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK I'D SET MYSELF, I MIGHT HAVE WAVERED. THERE WERE BRUTALLY LONG HOURS IN THE LABORATORY..."
"AND EQUALLY LONG, EQUALLY BRUTAL HOURS IN THE GYM... TRAINING, DEVELOPING EVERY CONCEIVABLE SORT OF SKILL..."
"I WAS NOT YET OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE...A TOTALLY DEVOTED, ALMOST FANATICAL YOUNG MAN..."
"...CONSUMED WITH A NEED, BUT UNABLE TO FOCUS IT! THEN, ONE NIGHT A BAT CHANCED IN MY WINDOW--AND MY FUTURE WAS CLEAR..."
IT'S AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A BAT!
"I FELT CRIMINALS TO BE A COWARDLY, SUPERSTITIOUS LOT..."
"...AND I REASONED THAT MY DISGUISE WOULD STRIKE TERROR IN THEIR HEARTS..."
"SOON, I BECAME FEARED AND HATED... EXACTLY AS I'D HOPED! THEN, AT A PERFORMANCE OF THE CIRCUS, I SAW MY OWN TRAGEDY HORRIBLY REENACTED AS A PAIR OF AERIALISTS PLUNGED TO THEIR DEATHS..."
"...LEAVING A SMALL, FRIGHTENED BOY TO MOURN. I CHILLED WITH THE REALIZATION THAT MINE WAS NOT AN ISOLATED AGONY... NOR EVEN UNIQUE!"
"I LOOKED AT THE WEEPING LAD...AND SAW MYSELF! I PUT A HAND ON HIS SHOULDER, AND IN THAT SECOND, AN UNDERSTANDING WAS FORGED BETWEEN US... AND A COMMON PURPOSE!"
7


"THE DESIRE TO SEE JUSTICE METED OUT TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HOLD LIFE SACRED MIGHT HAVE DIMMED FOR ANOTHER MAN, BUT FOR THE BATMAN THERE IS THE ALMOST DAILY REMINDER OF MAN'S INHUMANITY. ONLY THIS TIME IT HAS STRUCK THAT MUCH CLOSER TO MY HEART!"
SOON... CALCUTTA! CITY OF A THOUSAND MISERIES, A MILLION TEARS! BEHIND EVERY DOOR LURKS A HORROR... BEHIND EVERY SMILE, A KNIFE...
ALMS! ALMS FOR THE LOVE OF ALLAH--!
ALMS, GOOD BROTHERS?
NAY, OLD PRIEST ...WE COME TO TAKE, NOT GIVE!
EMPTY YOUR BEGGING CUP... OR SUFFER OUR ANGER!
SUCH THREATS BODE YOU ILL!
SURRENDER--! FOR MY ANGER DWARFS YOURS!
AIEEE! BENEATH THE HOLY ROBES, A DEVIL FROM HELL!--A BAT-MAN!
STUPID WAVER OF STICKS! YOUR WEAPON MEANS NOTHING TO ME!
IT ONLY INCREASES MY FURY!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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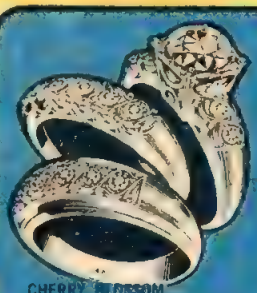

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Fantastic fiery diamond in a "modern as tomorrow" setting of 14K gold.
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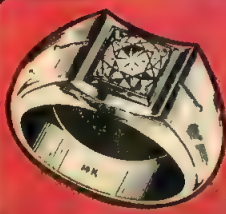

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Dazzling diamond man's ring in handsome 14K gold.
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Her Address _____

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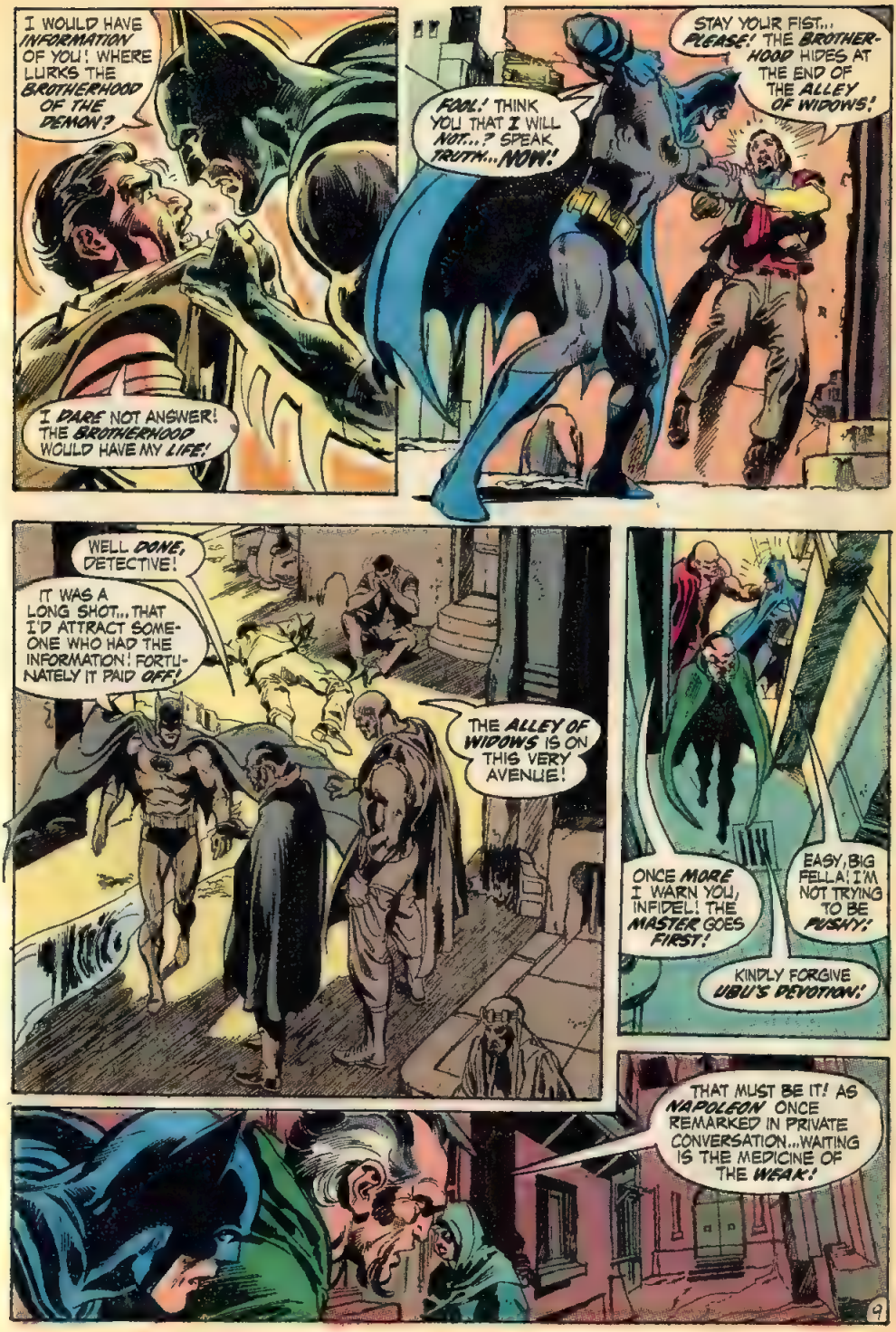
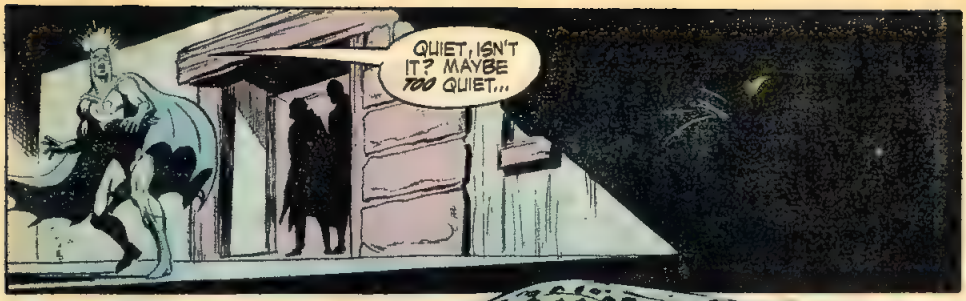
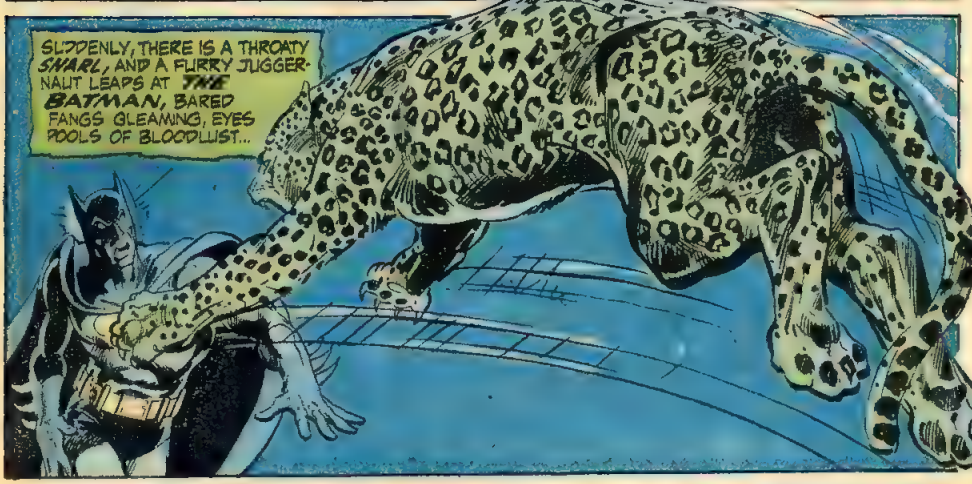

I WOULD HAVE INFORMATION OF YOU! WHERE LURKS THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE DEMON?
I DARE NOT ANSWER! THE BROTHERHOOD WOULD HAVE MY LIFE!
FOOL! THINK YOU THAT I WILL NOT...? SPEAK TRUTH...NOW!
STAY YOUR FIST... PLEASE! THE BROTHERHOOD HIDES AT THE END OF THE ALLEY OF WIDOWS!
WELL DONE, DETECTIVE!
IT WAS A LONG SHOT... THAT I'D ATTRACT SOMEONE WHO HAD THE INFORMATION! FORTUNATELY IT PAID OFF!
THE ALLEY OF WIDOWS IS ON THIS VERY AVENUE!
ONCE MORE I WARN YOU, INFIDEL! THE MASTER GOES FIRST!
EASY, BIG FELLA! I'M NOT TRYING TO BE PUSHY!
KINDLY FORGIVE UBU'S DEVOTION!
THAT MUST BE IT! AS NAPOLEON ONCE REMARKED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION...WAITING IS THE MEDICINE OF THE WEAK!




SUDDENLY, THERE IS A THROATY SNARL, AND A FURRY JUGGERNAUT LEAPS AT THE BATMAN, BARED FANGS GLEAMING, EYES POOLS OF BLOODLUST...

ALMOST WITHOUT THINKING, THE BATMAN SMASHES HIS ELBOW DEEP INTO THE MOUTH OF THE ENRAGED LEOPARD... LOCKING ITS JAWS OPEN...

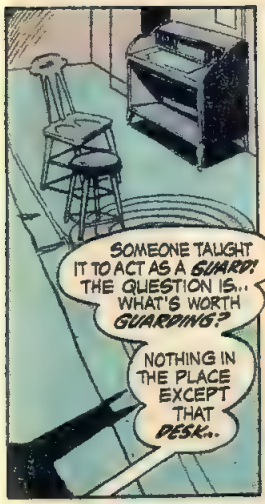
AS HE FALLS, BATMAN SIDESTEPS... AVOIDING THE RAKING HIND CLAWS WHICH SEARCH THE AIR, FAILING TO DISEMBOWEL...

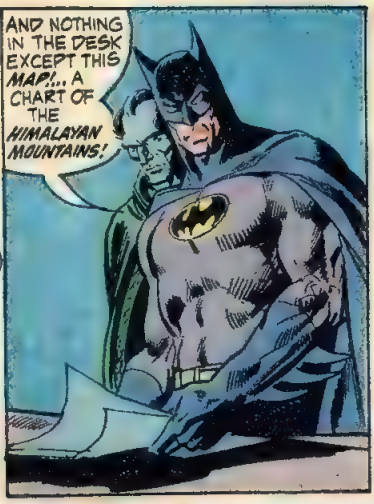
THEN, WITH SPLIT-SECOND TIMING, THE BATMAN DRIVES HIMSELF IN AND AROUND THE FELINE FURY...

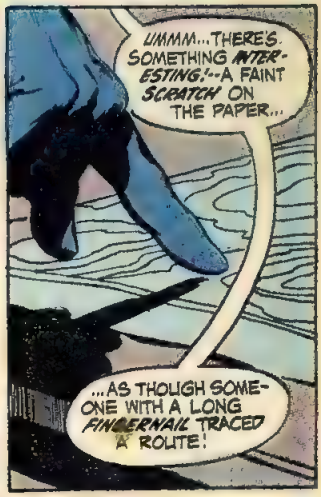
...AND INSIDE THE RANGE OF THE RAKING CLAWS, THE BATMAN BEGINS TO FORCE HIS ELBOW FORWARD... UNTIL...

SNAP!

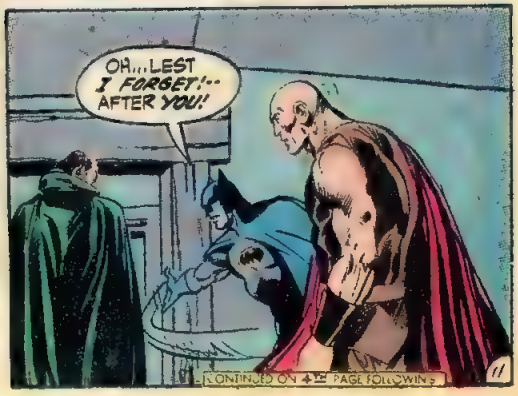
PANTING, THE CAPED WARRIOR STANDS, AS RA'S AL GHUL MURMURS CONGRATULATIONS...
EXCELLENT, DETECTIVE! IS THERE NO LIMIT TO YOUR PROWESS?
THAT LEOPARD WAS TRAINED!


SOMEONE TAUGHT IT TO ACT AS A GUARD! THE QUESTION IS... WHAT'S WORTH GUARDING?
NOTHING IN THE PLACE EXCEPT THAT DESK...


AND NOTHING IN THE DESK EXCEPT THIS MAP!... A CHART OF THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS!


UMMM... THERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING!--A FAINT SCRATCH ON THE PAPER...
...AS THOUGH SOMEONE WITH A LONG FINGERNAIL TRACED A ROUTE!

I ASSUME YOU CAN FINANCE A MOUNTAIN EXPEDITION? IF YOU CAN'T-- I...
OF COURSE! WE'LL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY!


OH... LEST I FORGET!-- AFTER YOU!
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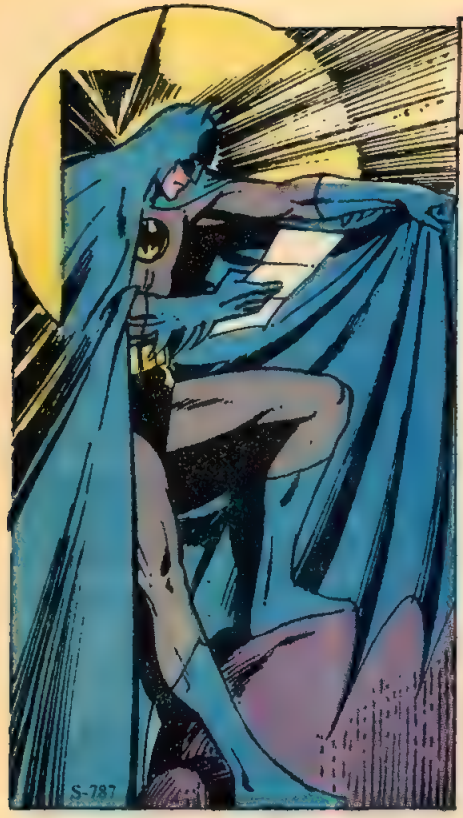

LETTERS to the BATMAN

Dear Editor:

Aside from a terrible cover, the inside of *Batman* #229 was good stuff. Or, if I were a cook, I might say that the shell was unattractive, but the filling was delectable.

I was rather leery about "Asylum of the Futurians" because Robert Kanigher's recent *Flash* forays have not pleased me, but this was a very good adventure-mystery story.

Note, please, that I said adventure-mystery. This was *not* a detective story. With a few minor changes, the story could have been rewritten to feature *Flash Gordon, The Saint, Rip Kirby*, or any one of several heroes. Detection was not part of this story, but fascinating plot, convincing dialogue (the best Kanigher has ever written), and flawless execution helped to make this one of the best *Batman* stories I have ever read.

The death-trap was convincing, both in situation and escape, and the explanation of the "telepathic call" was best left unexplained until the end of the story. Any other method of this revelation would have been anti-climactic. Stephen Grey would not be a bad character to bring back if the *Bat*-like battler ever gets into another "occult" mystery. For that matter, the *Futurians* are much better *Bat*-foes than a man whose fingers do the seeing, a league of assassins, or a fugitive from a *Dracula* re-run.

You must have caught me in a good mood today because I can't complain about anything! *Robin's* "Temperature Boiling . . . and Rising" was high-quality all the way through. There was a time when all the *plot* of a two-part story would be in the first installment, and the second part would be a mere action-filled "wrap-up" with little plot. Happily, those days seem to be behind us.

Getting down to specifics, the light-sources clue was absolutely *brilliant*. Classic detection stuff all the way around. Completely fair to the reader, but still as baffling as all get-out.

A returning cast of characters is finally being established on the *Hudson U* campus with Hank Osher and the like, and that certainly makes the stories more enjoyable. Hopefully, you will introduce a semi-right-wing-type to offset semi-leftish Osher. It's not that I particularly disagree with him, but I feel both sides should be represented. And I, as a fan of *all* super-hero comic companies, enjoyed the not-so-subtle dig on page 7, panel 2. Little jibes like these tend, in my opinion, to draw all comicdom together, without regard to brand, characters or place of national origin (no pun *or* plug intended).

--MIKE W. BARR, Akron, Ohio

(Because of this issue's full-length Batman-Robin *adventure, there's no solo* Robin *story—an omission which we will remedy with next issue's "Vengeance for a Cop," the starter of an unprecedented three-parter, in which the* Teen Wonder *gets involved with* commune-*activities.* JS*)*

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I have been reading *Batman* for five years (does that classify me as a newcomer or veteran?). I have never really been compelled to write a letter, complimentary or otherwise. In fact, although I buy *Batman* regularly, I rarely enjoy it. *Batman* was just one of the fifteen magazines I bought. When I purchased "Asylum of the Futurians" I thought the cover was rotten. But I can sum up the story in one word—WOW!

Batman is getting better and better. When I look at issues that came out 3 or 4 years ago, I wonder why I bought them. In those days, a plastic *Batman* and his wise-cracking sidekick blundered their way along the pages. Now *Batman* is HUMAN. The art on the story was great; Irv Novick and Frank Giacoia were always my favorites. The script was good, too. *Batman's* aura of mystery, of being a loner, is great (something you couldn't do when *Robin* was around). After I read that story, I went out and bought three more issues.

When I got back I read the *Robin* story. This time I couldn't care if it was an A-plus or D-minus story, I was so intrigued by the *Batman* yarn. Again you surprised me! Again great art. Another great script. Wow! Being a girl, I really dig Dick Grayson's (and *Robin's)* hair and clothes. One request for *Robin*, though. Why don't you get him a new costume? The old one was great when he was in those *campy* stories, but the new *Robin* needs a better-looking uniform. (Notice when I used *costume* and *uniform*!) To get Dick more human, let's see him going on dates more often.

About girl friends, I suggest you also get Bruce Wayne one. Over the years, Bruce's (and *Batman's)* romances have been limited to one issue. No good! After all, Bruce is a handsome playboy. Let him marry somebody with *brown* hair. Blondes and raven-haired are over-played in your magazines. 70 % of the female population in the U.S. are brunettes, and 50 % of those have brown hair.

One thing (which is really trivial) I didn't like about "Asylum of the Futurians" was that the villainess' name was *Michelle!* I'm flattered you used my first name, but couldn't she have been a nicer person? Besides myself, four of my girl friends have this same name and I assure

you none of us is villainess-minded!

—MICHELLE MONDRO, Detroit, Mich.

(Back in the 1930's a group of rabid science-fiction fans banded together in an Ivory Tower and called themselves The Futurians. *When we further tell you that their leader was named (John B.)* Michel, *you'll understand the circumstances which inspired us to recall this fandom episode of yesteryear.—*JS)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Well, I never really thought the time would come when I'd be gladder to see the *Robin* story than the featured *Batman* strip. But, as they say . . . there is always a first time. *Batman* 229 was exactly that. The whole cover looked like a reject from *Jerry Lewis* or something. That pathetical, scary man in the background, mouthing clichés, *Batman* cowering away from the rather anemic hands in the front . . . I didn't even like the *Batman* symbol in the upper left corner. I think the only part of the cover I *did* like was the portrait of *Robin* proclaiming another solo adventure. Gee whiz, how come I don't know any boys who look like that?

On the inside, I continued to be bored. My only real surprise was that instead of being another *Batman*-trapped with a bunch of maniacs and a little supernatural mixed in story, it was in actuality another *Batman* trapped with a bunch of hostile mutants who want to take over the world and a few supernatural intimations at the end story.

The art was incredibly poor . . . miserable, in fact. I wonder why so much comics art is looking like so much other comics art, and thus degenerating rapidly? Even the dialogue . . . "You *waves of the future* have different names! From Attila the Hun to Hitler! But you all end the same way . . . paying for your crimes!" Or *Batman's* final shot . . . "Perhaps . . . there are questions haunting us today . . . which will be answered . . . tomorrow!" Oh, brother! The oldest way in the world to get out of committing yourselves to spiritualism, to the supernatural, to anything which can't be proven! The times are coming when such a comment will be greeted with hisses and fury by readers.

As for the *Robin* story . . . enough of an improvement over "Asylum of the Futurians" . . . it wasn't a pretentious story . . . none of the *Robin* or *Batgirl* ones are. You don't exactly hit the so-called nitty-gritty, but "Temperature Boiling . . . and Rising" was pleasant escape-literature after its lead story.

Two last things. One, I like the new logo on the letters page. Now that's what *The Batman* looks like to me. Two, how about a new costume for *Robin?* He's really gotten too old running around in green jockey shorts and a tunic. Oh, and one more. We just want you to know we caught that line about *Peter Parker*, and you have been duly reported to *Marvel*, who is sending over *Captain America* and the *X-Men* to make you see the errors of your ways. *Pax.*

—MADELEINE ROBINS, Sheffield, Mass.

(The pressure *is rising . . . and* boiling over *. . . to have us up-date* Robin's *costume (uniform?). One of these issues we'll do just that . . . if we can get certain clearances.—*JS)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I am what you might call a book worm. Give me a good book; if it holds my interest I'll read it to the bitter end no matter how big it is. And for some reason I like to read DC comics most of all. Even when I was in the Navy, if I had the chance or money I'd buy a couple of issues, mostly *Batman* or *Superman*. Or if on occasion a cover catches my eye, like *Adam Strange*, I'd buy it. Your comics seem to have a certain amount of *quantity* about it. Once in a while someone comes up with a good idea, and bang! You have a fabulous story.

And I'll say this for you—you sure have made some changes since I first started buying your comics. Heaven knows, you had a heck of a hard time to live down that *Batman* television series and that movie they made, with the *Joker, Catwoman*, etc.

I agree with you and so many of your readers: *The Batman* should be a creature of the night, mysterious, constantly lurking in the shadows, watching, waiting to pounce upon criminals. And since *Robin* has split the scene, the *Batman* stories are even better. No, I'm not knocking *Robin*—it just seems *The Batman* operates better without him; and the same goes for *Robin*—his stories *read* better without *The Batman*.

Like *Batman #229*. *Robin* is fabulous as a solo operator. And if he has to have a teammate, then the one-shot adventure with *Superman* in *World's Finest* #200 was great!

But getting back to *Batman*. The stories lately are a lot more enjoyable to read. You know, there's something I've always wondered—why you give *The Batman* an enemy like the *Joker*, or *Riddler*, or any of those other cookie villains. Look around—what do you see? Dope, war, racial problems, poverty; you name it, friend, it's there. Give us more *mystery* yarns—like *Batman* #225's "Wanted for Murder One!" Denny O'Neil came up with a thriller—an honest-to-gosh mystery. And *Batman* #229 even topped that—from that mysterious beginning on page one to the cryptic ending on page 22.

Hey, if you keep this up *Batman* may some day ride right up there with the greatest fictitious detectives of the century—that if he hasn't already made it as "The World's Greatest Detective"!

—FRED LASITTER, Naples, Fla.

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

What's happening to *The Batman?* For the last few issues, every other *Batman* story has dealt with magic, sorcery, or the super-natural. Now, once in a while is all right, but don't get ridiculous. And these aren't stories with just subtle hints of the unreal; they are out-and-out ghost stories, and most of them feature a *Batman* who is nothing more than a human pawn in a deadly supernatural game.

I thought *Batman* was going after the real game—organized crime, dope rings, crooked politicians, evil gangs like the *League of Assassins* (there's a good idea!) and the most exciting and menacing super-villains. Or are those speeches that Bruce Wayne said when he moved his operations into the heart of *Gotham City—just speeches?*

Come on, you've shown you can do it. Exciting stories of suspense, mystery, DETECTION (note the caps), and action are much more fitting for *Batman*. You may put him into a gloomy or mysterious atmosphere if you wish; so much the better. But try to tone down the fantasy a bit.

—DENNIS PALUMBO, Pittsburgh, Pa.

(To repeat a quote we've used on other occasions: "The supernatural *is merely the* natural *that science cannot as yet explain!" Won't you at least concede that it may be the greatest of all mysteries that still baffles* The Batman?*—*JS)

* * * * *

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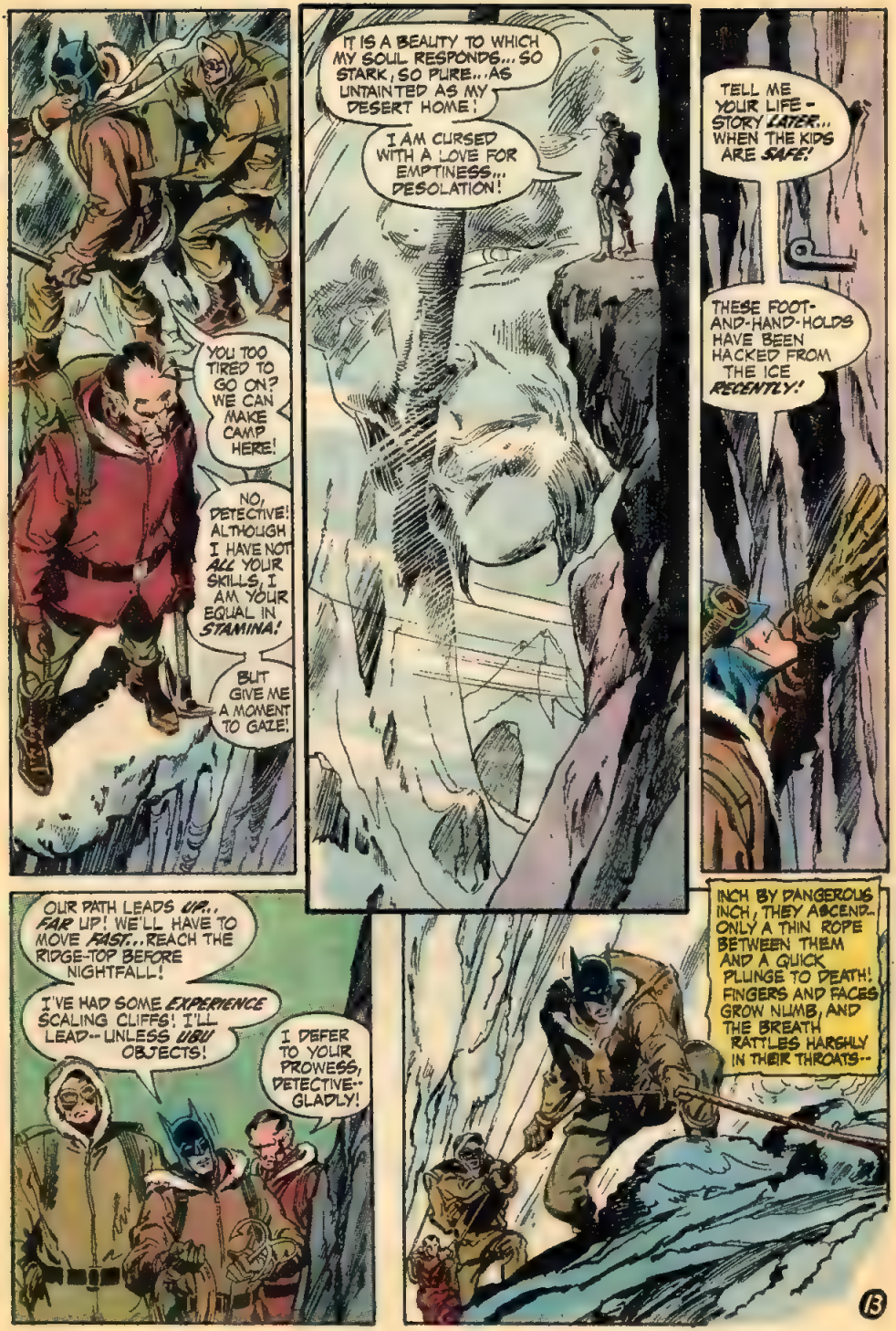
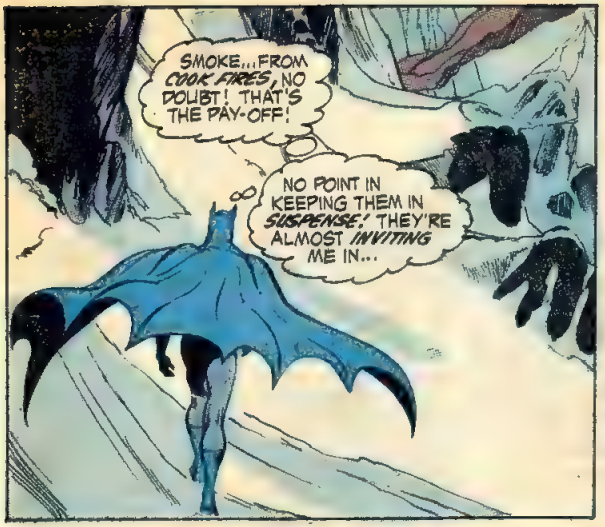
TO THIS NIGHTMARE OF BLISTERING WIND AND BLINDING SNOW TREK THE BATMAN AND HIS TWO STRANGE COMPANIONS...
IT HASN'T SNOWED FOR SEVERAL DAYS! THE TRAIL IS STILL CLEAR!
YES! THE ABDUCTORS OBVIOUSLY BROUGHT YOUR WARD AND MY DAUGHTER UP THIS WAY!
12

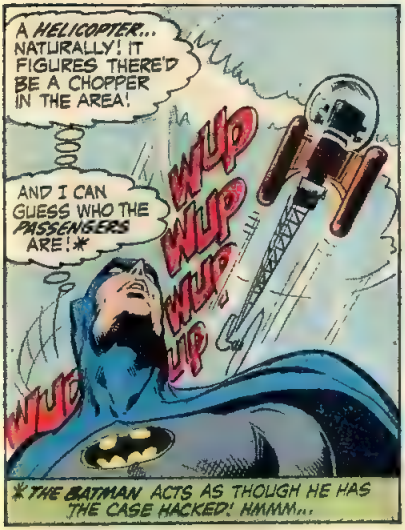

YOU TOO TIRED TO GO ON? WE CAN MAKE CAMP HERE!
NO, DETECTIVE! ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT ALL YOUR SKILLS, I AM YOUR EQUAL IN STAMINA!
BUT GIVE ME A MOMENT TO GAZE!
IT IS A BEAUTY TO WHICH MY SOUL RESPONDS... SO STARK, SO PURE... AS UNTAINTED AS MY DESERT HOME!
I AM CURSED WITH A LOVE FOR EMPTINESS... DESOLATION!
TELL ME YOUR LIFE-STORY LATER... WHEN THE KIDS ARE SAFE!
THESE FOOT-AND-HAND-HOLDS HAVE BEEN HACKED FROM THE ICE RECENTLY!
OUR PATH LEADS UP... FAR UP! WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST... REACH THE RIDGE-TOP BEFORE NIGHTFALL!
I'VE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE SCALING CLIFFS! I'LL LEAD-- UNLESS UBU OBJECTS!
I DEFER TO YOUR PROWESS, DETECTIVE-- GLADLY!
INCH BY DANGEROUS INCH, THEY ASCEND-- ONLY A THIN ROPE BETWEEN THEM AND A QUICK PLUNGE TO DEATH! FINGERS AND FACES GROW NUMB, AND THE BREATH RATTLES HARSHLY IN THEIR THROATS--

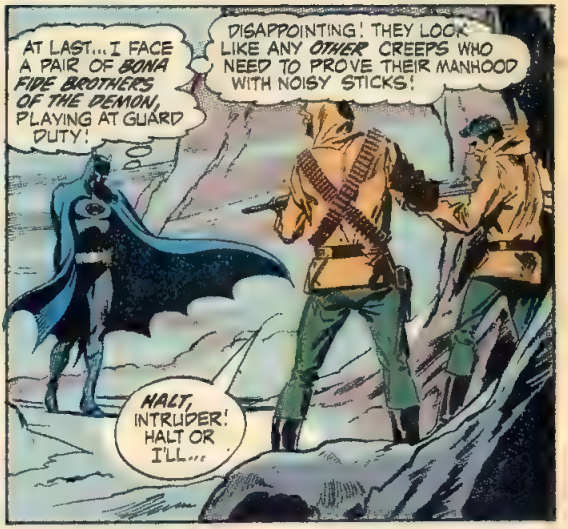
STILL, THEY FORCE THEMSELVES FARTHER! THE BATMAN FINDS HIS PATH SURELY, SWIFTLY...UNAWARE THAT HE IS FRAMED IN A GUNSIGHT!
WITHOUT WARNING, THE BOOM OF A HEAVY CALIBER RIFLE ECHOES THROUGH THE CREVASSES...
KOOW
POW
AGGH!
AL GHŪL'S OUT OF IT! AND I'M A PERFECT TARGET--! NO COVER, NO CHANCE TO RUN...
SOON THAT SNIPER WILL FIND THE RANGE-- ZERO IN! BULLETS ARE ALREADY COMING CLOSER!
SPANG
UBU'S GOTTEN HIMSELF AND AL GHŪL TO THE LEDGE!
THEY'RE SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING!
ZING
THAT LEAVES ME FREE TO TAKE MY INSANE CHANCE...THE ONLY ONE AVAILABLE!
GOT TO GET OUT OF THESE ROPES!
NEXT, I'LL DITCH MY HEAVY PARKA! IT MAY IMPEDE FAST MOVEMENT...
...AND AS IT FALLS, IT MAY DISTRACT THE KILLER FOR THE SINGLE MOMENT I NEED--
--TO BRACE MY FEET... AND LEAP!
KRAW
14

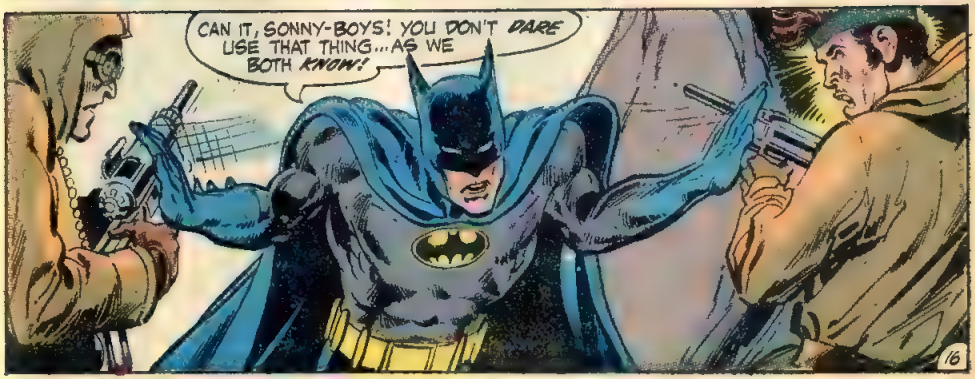
ACROSS THE CHILL CHASM HE FLINGS HIMSELF--A FINAL, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO REACH THE STEEP SLOPE FIFTEEN FEET AWAY...A MURDERER IN FRONT, AND YAWNING DOOM BELOW...!
15


SMOKE...FROM COOK FIRES, NO DOUBT! THAT'S THE PAY-OFF!
NO POINT IN KEEPING THEM IN SUSPENSE! THEY'RE ALMOST INVITING ME IN...

...AND SINCE I'VE COME HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD, I'LL JUST ACCEPT THAT INVITATION!
THERE ARE PROBABLY A DOZEN GUNS TRAINED ON ME, BUT NOBODY'S GOING TO SHOOT!
THEY'LL WANT TO WATCH MY REACTION!


A HELICOPTER... NATURALLY! IT FIGURES THERE'D BE A CHOPPER IN THE AREA!
AND I CAN GUESS WHO THE PASSENGERS ARE!*
WUP WUP WUP WUP
WUP
*THE BATMAN ACTS AS THOUGH HE HAS THE CASE HACKED! HMMM...


AT LAST... I FACE A PAIR OF BONA FIDE BROTHERS OF THE DEMON, PLAYING AT GUARD DUTY!
DISAPPOINTING! THEY LOOK LIKE ANY OTHER CREEPS WHO NEED TO PROVE THEIR MANHOOD WITH NOISY STICKS!
HALT, INTRUDER! HALT OR I'LL...


CAN IT, SONNY-BOYS! YOU DON'T DARE USE THAT THING... AS WE BOTH KNOW!

BOLDLY, THE BATMAN STRIDES INTO A CHAMBER HEWN FROM ROCK, AND...
BATMAN! GOOD TO SEE YOU, FRIEND!
SAME HERE, ROBIN!
STOP! YOU CAN'T...
SURE I CAN! WATCH ME!
HOW'VE THEY BEEN TREATING YOU, KID?
NOT BAD! CHOW'S LOUSY... NICE ATMOSPHERE, THOUGH! HAVE ANY HASSLES GETTING HERE?
NONE TO COMPLAIN OF! BUT DO ME A FAVOR... NEXT HOODS THAT SNARE YOU, ASK THEM TO STAY IN THE UNITED STATES! I HATE LONG TRIPS!
ON YOUR KNEES, INTRUDER! THE SUPREME BROTHER ENTERS!
I'LL GIVE THE KNEELING A MISS, IF YOU DON'T MIND--AND EVEN IF YOU DO!
IN THE LAST THREE DAYS, I'VE MIXED WITH CUT-THROATS AND A KILLER-LEOPARD...
...I'VE BRUISED MY KNUCKLES ON VARIOUS CHINS, I'VE CLIMBED A MOUNTAIN, AND I'VE DODGED BULLETS...
...SO I DON'T HAVE ANY PATIENCE LEFT FOR PHONY RITUALS!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
17

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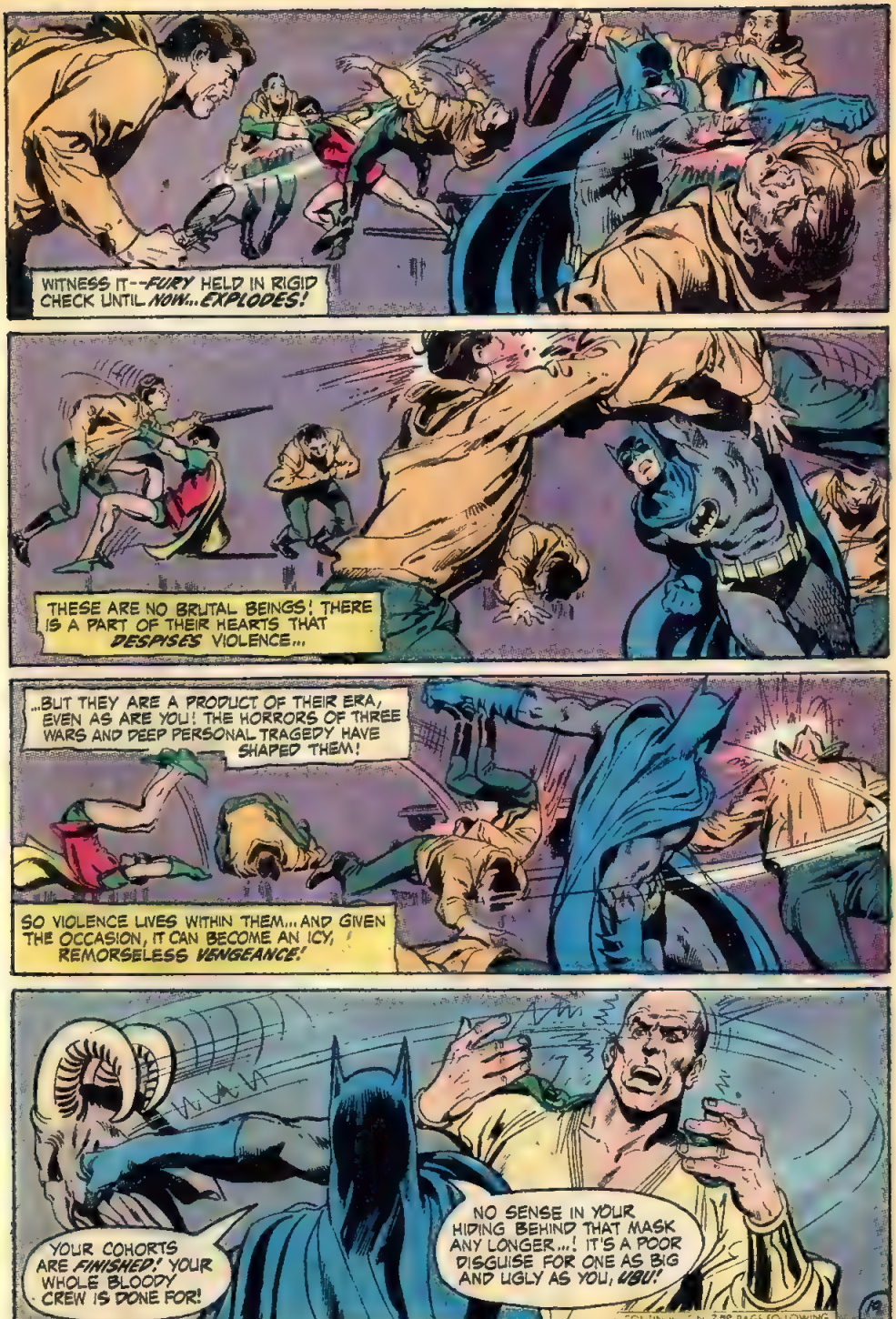
IN FACT, I DON'T HAVE ANY PATIENCE LEFT PERIOD! YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING ME THROUGH PACES AND YOU THINK I'M TOO DUMB TO UNDERSTAND IT!
YOU THINK A MAN WITH MY TRAINING COULDN'T SEE WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I SAW THE WHOLE DEAL WAS A CHARADE!
RA'S AL GHŪL AND HIS OX OF A SERVANT SHOWING RIGHT AFTER ROBIN DISAPPEARED... THAT WAS A JOKE!
TOO QUICK...TOO BIG A COINCIDENCE! AL GHŪL'S STORY OF HIS DAUGHTER'S IDENTICAL DISAPPEARANCE WOULDN'T HAVE FOOLED A MORON!
THEN IN CALCUTTA... UBU ALWAYS MADE A BIG ROUTINE OF LETTING HIS BOSS GO AHEAD OF ME...
...EXCEPT WHEN THERE WAS DANGER! CONCLUSION ...UBU KNEW THE LEOPARD WAS WAITING!
THE MAP WAS THE CLINCHER! I TOLD A LITTLE WHITE LIE... BECAUSE THERE WAS NO FINGERNAIL SCRATCH ON THE CHART--
...YET UBU AND AL GHŪL TOOK ME TO THIS MOUNTAIN... THIS, OF THE THIRTEEN HIMALAYAS!
I'M TIRED OF TALKING! YOU READY, ROBIN?
CHECK, BATMAN! SHALL WE BEGIN?
18


WITNESS IT--FURY HELD IN RIGID CHECK UNTIL NOW... EXPLODES!
THESE ARE NO BRUTAL BEINGS! THERE IS A PART OF THEIR HEARTS THAT DESPISES VIOLENCE...
...BUT THEY ARE A PRODUCT OF THEIR ERA, EVEN AS ARE YOU! THE HORRORS OF THREE WARS AND DEEP PERSONAL TRAGEDY HAVE SHAPED THEM!
SO VIOLENCE LIVES WITHIN THEM... AND GIVEN THE OCCASION, IT CAN BECOME AN ICY, REMORSELESS VENGEANCE!
YOUR COHORTS ARE FINISHED! YOUR WHOLE BLOODY CREW IS DONE FOR!
NO SENSE IN YOUR HIDING BEHIND THAT MASK ANY LONGER...! IT'S A POOR DISGUISE FOR ONE AS BIG AND UGLY AS YOU, UGU!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
19

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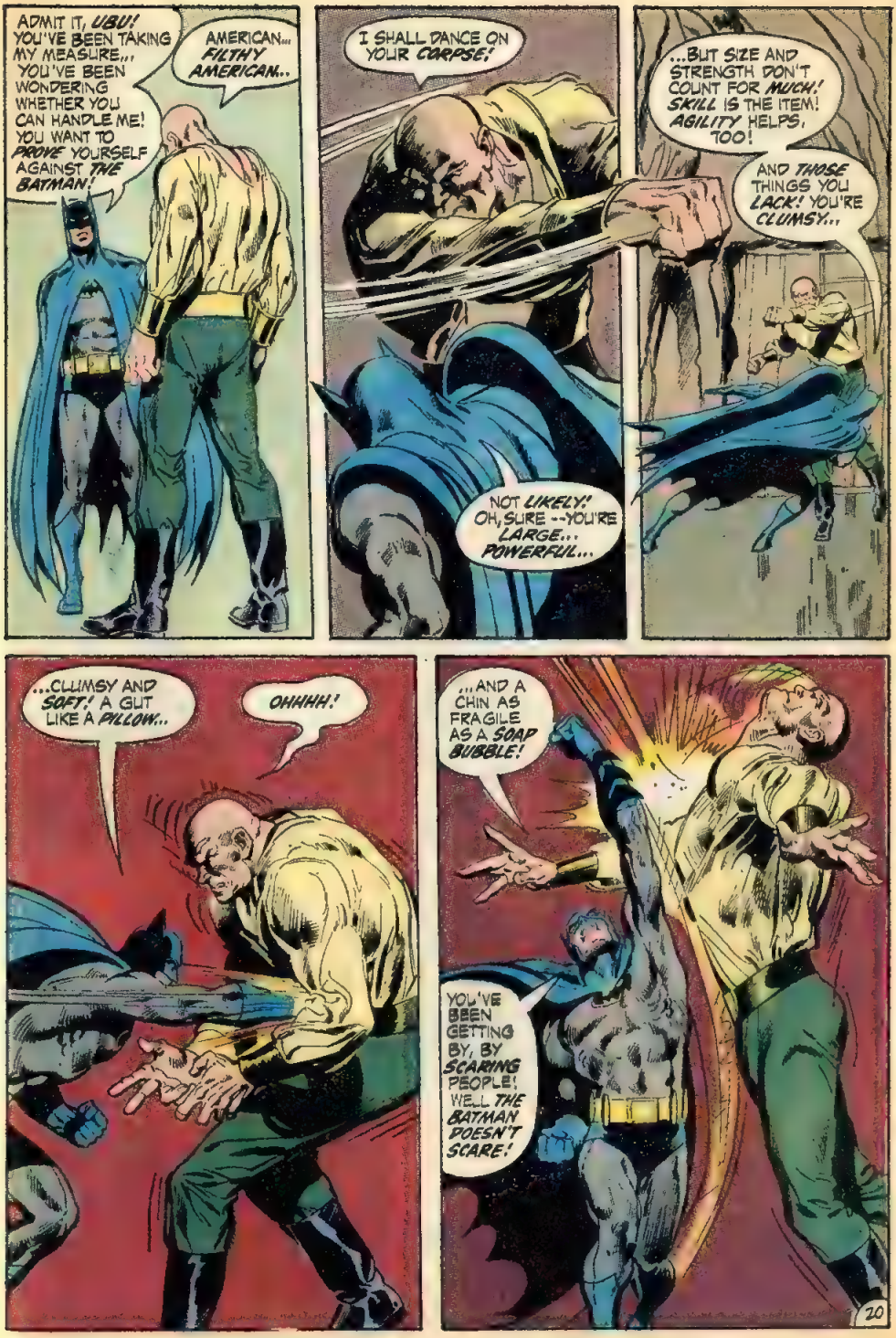
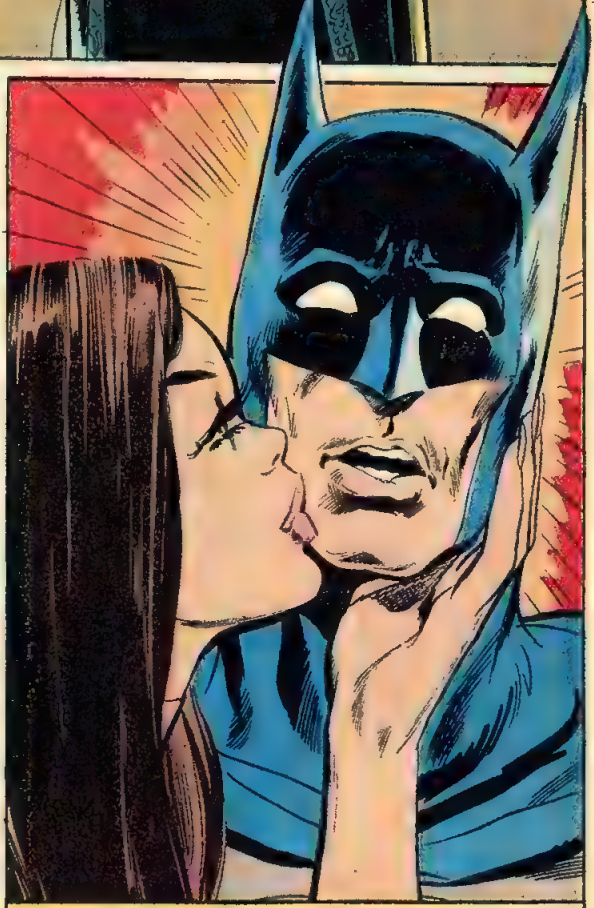

ADMIT IT, UBU! YOU'VE BEEN TAKING MY MEASURE... YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHETHER YOU CAN HANDLE ME! YOU WANT TO PROVE YOURSELF AGAINST THE BATMAN!
AMERICAN... FILTHY AMERICAN...
I SHALL DANCE ON YOUR CORPSE!
NOT LIKELY! OH, SURE --YOU'RE LARGE... POWERFUL...
...BUT SIZE AND STRENGTH DON'T COUNT FOR MUCH! SKILL IS THE ITEM! AGILITY HELPS, TOO!
AND THOSE THINGS YOU LACK! YOU'RE CLUMSY...
...CLUMSY AND SOFT! A GUT LIKE A PILLOW...
OHHHH!
...AND A CHIN AS FRAGILE AS A SOAP BUBBLE!
YOU'VE BEEN GETTING BY, BY SCARING PEOPLE! WELL THE BATMAN DOESN'T SCARE!

AFTER YOU, UBU!
LOOK WHO'S JOINED THE MERRIMENT, ROBIN! THE HONORABLE RA'S AL GHUL AND HIS GIRL-CHILD!
AHHH...MY DEAR, DEAR DETECTIVE! I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED I COULD NOT ESCAPE YOUR SCRUTINY!
DON'T BOTHER WITH AN ELABORATE EXPLANATION! I KNOW YOU FAKED BEING SHOT... I FIGURED OUT EVERYTHING...
...EXCEPT WHY! YOU'VE STAGED A COMPLICATED QUEST... AND THE DANGERS ALONG THE WAY WERE REAL!

YOU WOULD HAVE LET ME BE KILLED IF I HADN'T SAVED MYSELF! YOU WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR A GAME!
NO GAME, DETECTIVE! YOUR ADMIRABLE MIND HAS REASONED ALL SAVE THE OBVIOUS...

...THAT MY DARLING TALIA LOVES YOU!
MY ORGANIZATION IS VAST...! I CONSIDER RETIRING FROM MY ACTIVITIES--!
I HAD TO SATISFY MYSELF THAT YOU ARE A WORTHY SUCCESSOR TO ME!... A WORTHY SON-IN-LAW!



WHO KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT RĀ'S AL GHŪL AND HIS LOVELY TALIA ARE PLANNING NEXT?--CERTAINLY NOT THE BATMAN! MORE TO COME SOON!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT MAY 11TH

FOR SHEER SUSPENSE!

ON SALE April 22nd

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY...

...AND BETTER

ON SALE APRIL 14th

THE BEST BASEBALL GAME CANNOT BE PURCHASED IN A RETAIL STORE!

PITCHING • HITTING • FIELDING • RUNNING • MANAGING

Season after season, STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL has been sold to thousands of baseball fans exclusively through the mail. But why, you ask? Each year our baseball game is totally revised to reflect precisely the most up-to-date Major League statistics.

STRAT-O-MATIC offers such a current authentic reproduction of real life baseball and such a wide selection of games and individual team combinations, that it is impossible for a retail store to supply our fans.

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To Hundreds of Big League Ball Games
Fill Out and MAIL TODAY
You Take NO RISK. Fill out and mail for FREE Sample Offer.

The above are just some of STRAT-O-MATIC's highlights. For the entire story, mail coupon for a colorful FREE BROCHURE containing full detailed information and FREE STRAT-O-MATIC SAMPLES. Send Today To: Strat-O-Matic Game Co., Inc., 82A S. Bayles Ave., Port Wash., N.Y. 11050.

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82A South Bayles Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050

Send exciting FREE STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball Game offer and samples. I enclose 10 cents in coin or stamps to cover postage and handling.

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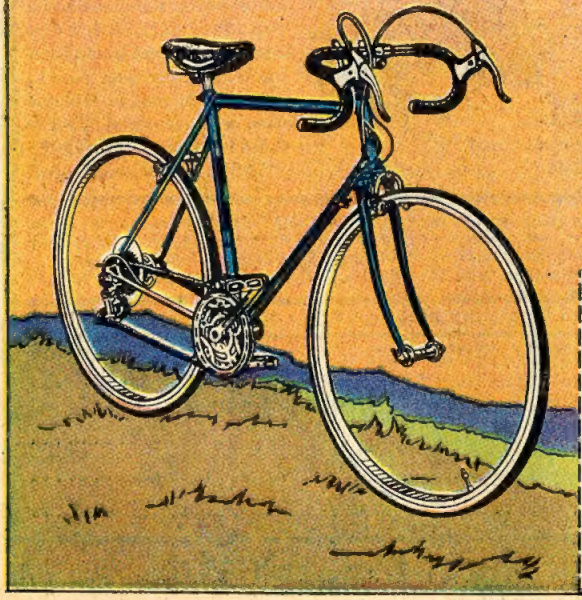
The going thing in a high-rise is the Raleigh Chopper.® It puts you first by being first. Three options for its power consoles: a 3-speed ball shifter, a 5-speed split T-bar and a teeth-gnashing 10-speed with double-stick shift and special gear that clamps right in on any speed and locks it in. The styling is something else with the wedge chassis and L-bucket Dragster Saddle.

RALEIGH

RALEIGH'S GOT IT EITHER WAY YOU GO

RALEIGH'S GOT IT EITHER WAY YOU GO



If you go the lightweight route, a Raleigh 10-speed is your baby. Its ancestors are pure Raleigh racing bikes. And nobody knows more about racing than Raleigh. There is a whole collection of 10-speeds featuring fully lugged racing frame tubing, center-pull brakes, wide-flange hubs. New colors to match the performance.

So split to your dealer and test spin the 1971 Raleighs. In the meantime send 25¢ and this coupon for our new catalog.

RALEIGH

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No. 971 20¢

ATOMIC SMOKE BOMB

Just light one and watch the column of thick, white smoke rise to the ceiling, mushrooming into a dense cloud, just like an A Bomb.

SILENT DOG WHISTLE

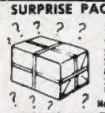
This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Hoover can, hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.

No. 701 ..... $1.00

MONEYMAKER

Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob and ... OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to $10. A130 ..... 1.25

SURPRISE PACKAGE



Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.

No. 679 ..... Only 50c

SPOOK HAND

A million laughs! This realistic, skin colored spook hand has rod fingernails and big knuckles that are completely realistic. Imagine it poking out of your car, out of a pot, opening a door. Sticks anywhere with special adhesive included. Can be re-used over and over again. It's real weird.

No. 8079 ..... 98c

FOAMING SUGAR

Looks just like real sugar, but that's where the resemblance stops. When it's dropped in liquids, they overflow and form clouds of suds

No. 4897 ..... 30c

WORMS

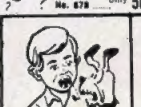
Drop these seemingly innocent pellets into a glass of water and magically a worm will appear. Can you imagine the look of horror on your victims face? It's harmless.

No. 812 ..... 15c

MONEY CHANGER

Just like a professional money changer. Attaches to any belt. Holds pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.

No. 78 ..... 90c



FANGS

These plastic teeth (?) fit over your own teeth and, needless to say, they'll completely change your appearance—for the worse. We think they're too much, but why not let your friends be the judges?

Item No. 836 ..... 25c

TRICK BASEBALL

It bounces cockeyed, it curves, it dips, it's impossible to catch. It's sure to set all the kids on the block spinning after it.

No. 188 ..... 50c

8 MM MOTION PICTURE PROJECTOR

COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE

HAVE ALL THE FUN OF PRIVATE MOVIES NOW AT THIS LOW PRICE

Precision engineered and compact. Completely portable in its own case. Needs no electric outlet since it is battery operated. Simple and safe to use. Its double lens focusing is sure and easy for bright, clear pictures. Only $6.98 plus 75c for postage and handling or send $1.00 good will deposit and pay postman balance on delivery plus COD and postage charges. Add $2.98 for each additional pair of "Miracle Specs."

ITEM PN97 ..... $6.98

ADDITIONAL SPECS $2.98

FREE! NEW THRILLING SENSATION

Add 3-D Stereo effect with "Miracle Specs" which makes people look so full and real you can reach out and touch them. One pair comes with each projector. Additional pairs are $2.98 each.

ONLY **$6.98**

FEATURES:

- Sturdy Construction
- Complete with Screen
- Projects color or black and white
- Speed Control for fast or slow motion
- Guaranteed

SEE BEHIND GLASSES

A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing you're watching. Really comes in handy at times.

No. 39 ..... 75¢

BULLET HOLES

A laugh riot! Actual copies of Real Bullet Holes

9 BULLET HOLES 50¢

JACK POT BANK

Dime-operating Jack Pot Bank works like the one armed bandit in Las Vegas. Deposit the dime and spin the handle. Reels spin and look like the real stuff. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling purposes.

No. 2960 ..... $1.69

PLOP! SPLAT!

Put this realistic plastic "mess" on the floor or on a car and the driver will think it was dropped by a giant bird that flew over. Use this harmless trick over & over again.

No. 801 ..... 39¢

Sinbad Jr. MAGIC BELT

Magic belt has everything. Magic Ray Flash Light—Secret Code Book—Secret Signal Flags—Blanks to Make Special Signal Flags—Hidden Pockets, and everything else necessary to delight any youngster.

No 218 ..... 1.98

MUSCLES OF STEEL

Results in just 30 days

Pocket gym slaps inches of muscle on your arms and torso. Gain the respect of your friends ... the admiration of the girls. Keep fit and healthy. Fear no one! Made of heavy rubber

No. 7001 ..... only $1.00

7 FOOT MONSTER

Bigger than life—Frankenstein, the man made monster. Giant 7 foot tall his eyes glow eerily in authentic color on durable polyethelene as scary as your wildest nightmare

No. 865 ..... $1.00

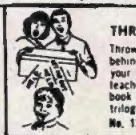
MONSTER-SIZE SKELETON

No. F200 ..... $1.00

XRAY SPECS AN HILARIOUS OPTICAL ILLUSION ONLY $1.00

Scientific optical principle really works. With Xray Specs you seem to be able to look through flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes?

No. FL7 ..... $1.00



THROW YOUR VOICE

Throw your voice into trunks behind doors, everywhere. Fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."

No. 137 ..... 25c

EXHAUST WHISTLE

Just slip it into the exhaust pipe of your friend's car ... then watch him when he starts the engine! The howls and noises will make him think the motor's about to blow up or fall apart —while you roar with laughter.

No. F195 ..... 50c

LEARN HYPNOTIC CONTROL

Develop your hidden hypnotic powers to control the minds and bodies of men and women. Learn to perform amazing feats and entertain at parties. Easily learned from the new book "25 Lessons in Hypnotism."

No. 7212 ..... 45c

OVER 1000 FREE GIFTS YOURS FOR THE ASKING

This miracle book gives the addresses of associations, federal agencies, and manufacturers that are anxious to send you ABSOLUTELY FREE samples, manuals, and books. A fabulous treasure trove completely up-to-date which will bring you gifts worth many times its low cost.

Item 50c

JOY BUZZER

Windup novelty you wear like a ring. Your victim gets a "SHOCKING" hand shake. Absolutely harmless.

No. 239 ..... Only 50c

ONION GUM

Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 5 slices to a pack.

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HOT PEPPER GUM

Lots of FUN passing out this Spearmint Gum with Hot Pepper added. Regulation pack, 5 sticks in cello wrapped package to keep it fresh.

A121 ..... 25c

HOW TO PERFORM STRONG MAN STUNTS

AMAZE YOUR FRIENDS

Learn eleven strong man stunts which you can easily perform to astonish your audience. Book includes He Man muscle building course—A real buy

Item #400 ..... 50c

PHONY CAST

Imitation white plaster arm cast complete with arm sling. Looks like the real thing! Fits teenagers or adults.

A 4 ..... $1.50

SKIN HEAD WIG

Most people try to grow hair. This is just the opposite. Made of flesh toned latex to fit all heads, really changes your appearance.

No. A35 ..... $1.00

Secret Spy Scope

PER SIZE—CLIPS ON YOUR POCKET. 8 POWER MAGNIFIER.

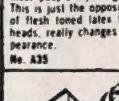
Six power wide field magnifier is great for watching sporting events, nature study, girl watching and counter spying. Also contains a 30 power microscope. Not a toy but a real optical instrument.

No. F59 ..... $1.50

TRICK BLACK SOAP

Ordinary looking cake of soap until victim washes with it. Then his face turns blacker and blacker. Shocking! Horrifies! A great trick.

No. 375 ..... Only 25¢



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Looks like any book so no one would think to look for valuables in it. Securely locked by combination only you know - because you yourself have set it. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding.

700 ..... $1

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